SPEECH OF MR. NILES, OF CONNECTICUT. On the Proposed Occupation of Yucatan.

IN SENATE, MAY 9, 1848. The Senate resumed, as in Committee of the Whole, the bill to enable the President of the United States to take temporary military occupation of Yucatan.

Mr. NILES rose and said : Mr. President, befo upon the consideration of the merits of this bill, I have to ne tice the extraordinary urgency with which we are pressed for immediate action upon it; and the reluctance which flas en manifested to allow time for a full and fair discussion of the subject. No one, I hope, desires any thing more than this; and certainly I wish as speedy a decision as is consistent with that discussion which the great importance of the subject

But I am the more surprised at this unusual urgency, of looking at the correspondence between Mr. Sierra and the Secretary of State, and learning the length of time which this subject has been pending before the Executive branch of the Government. There it has slept for menths; but the moment it is sent here we are reminded of the urgency of the case, and called on to act immediately, without taking time to debate, or consider a question involving such important principles and

Mr. Sierra has been here about six months. His first not was addressed to the Secretary of State on the 17th of November. On the 24th he wrote the second note, and received answer from the Secretary on the 14th of Dec These notes related to our occupation of Laguna and the col-lection of duties. On the 15th of February he addressed an-other letter, and another on the 24th. These letters did not solicit assistance from the United States, but they explained the difficult and critical situation in which Yucatan was placed, end claimed certain rights on the ground that Yucatan was neutral in the war. These letters were followed by others on the 7th of March, the 3d of April, and 18th of April, without any answer having been returned. The last was received in the absence of the Secretary, and the Chief Clerk, Mr. Appleton, addressed a note to Mr. Sierra, acknowledging the receipt of all these letters, and informing him that when the Se-vetary returned he would call his attention to them. In his note of the 3d of April Mr. Sierra says that he has made his note short, hoping "that, from the brevity of it, the honora-ble Secretary would find time to read it." A pretty plain hint, certainly, that he considered that his previous letters had not

whether it was the communication of the adocument which produced a more favorable consideration of the pressing solicitations of Mr. Sierra for basistance, I will not undertake to say. But, down to this period, the pressing and argent appeals of Mr. Sierra appear to have received no attention. The distressed and suffering condition of Yucatan appears to have been before the Executive Department of the Government for panels, without any action, having been taken in relative to relative them. months, without any action having been taken in relation to it, or so much consideration given to the subject as to answer the letters soliciting our assistance. But the very day the subject is laid before the Senate we are told that the case is f such extreme urgency that we must not take time to consider it, but must act at once. It becomes a case of life or death, and will not admit of any delay; the people of Yucatan may all be destroyed whilst we are debating the ques-tion of our interposing for their relief. Sir, if the Executive onths for consideration, we may, I think, take a few days to consider a subject involving such vital principles, and which may be attended with such serious connces. This, I believe, is due to the country, and due to

and to appreciate the force of the objections which stand in the way of its passage, we must first consider what the bill is, what it proposes to do. The first section authorizes and directs the President to take temporary military occupation of The first section authorizes and di Yucatan, and to employ the army and navy of the States to assist the white population of the country in the war in which they are now engaged with the Indians. This is certainly a very important and a very extraordinary measure. It is not exactly a declaration of war, yet it involves a war and all its responsibilities: a war which may be protracted and troublesome. But it is something more than a declaration of war, as the bill on its face looks to acquisition and conquest.

I wish to say something, Mr. President, in regard to this war, as the bill on its face looks to acquisition and conquest.

War may lead to conquest, but this bill, on its face, directs War may lead to conquest, but this bill, on its face, directs the President to take possession of a foreign country, and establish a military government over it. A military occupation will of course supersede the existing Government, as has been the case in other parts of Mexico where we have had a military occupation. This, then, is a bill to take possession of Yucatan, and establish our authority ever it. I know it is said that the constant in the least of the contraction of the contraction. that the occupation is to be temporary; but when will a tem-porary occupation cease? Not certainly until the causes porary occupation cease? Not certainly until the causes which induced the occupation have ceased to exist, and, as they will not be likely soon to disappear, the occupation will

come permanent.

And on what grounds is it claimed that so extraordinary is measure as this can be justified? Two have been assigned :

ican papulation. To show in what light the Indians are viewed in Yocatan, permit me to read an extract from one of

the letters of Mr. Sierra : "Through the special favor of Divine Providence the odious spirit of faction, which for some time past has disturbed
the public mind, has disappeared entirely from Yucatan; and
the citizens massacred by a common peril have succrety rallied
round their constitutional government, offering their cordial
and loyal co-operation and aid in sustaining the only policy at
present possible in that country. Noble and philanthropic,
liberal and broad is the political principle which has ever been
dominant in Yucatan. Our constitution and our laws bay: secured to the indigenous race the same identical rights which
they give to all other citizens. Our policy has always been to
alleviate the social condition of the Indians; improving it by
civil and religious instruction, and spreading among them all
the benefits of civilization in the same way and to the same
extent as our means and resources permitted asto do in behalf
of our own race. Many of them have thus been called into
public life who have succeeded in throwing off the brutal stopublic life who lave succeeded in throwing off the brutal stopublic life who lave succeeded in throwing off the brutal stopublic life who lave succeeded in throwing off the brutal stopublic life who lave succeeded in throwing off the brutal stopublic life who lave succeeded in throwing off the brutal stopublic life who lave succeeded in throwing off the brutal
stowell has the object of this policy been attained in one point of
view, that we have finally made ourselves the mark of the hatred
of the eastern Indians, who have declared against us a war of
extermination, perpetration upon the affected from their horrible
mature, and the wound they hand upon the noval condition of
a Christian people."

they have the same civil and political rights as the whites; that they are eligible to office; that it has been the policy of the Government to elevate them, civilize, and christianize them. Strictly, then, this can only be regarded as a civil war. and can we make ourselves a party to it consistently with our present relations with Mexico? Would it not give occasion to those disaffected towards the present Mexican Government and how ile to the treaty to excite prejudices against us, to charge as with bad faith, and perhaps defeat the negotiation Sir, we know the extreme jealousy of that people, now the whole course of their conduct, and the light in

know the whole course of their conduct, and the light in which they have hitherto viewed the transactions in Texas. We know they are extremely jealous of us, especially when they see an apparent disposition on the part of this country to seize upon their territory. And now, when this question of a treaty were so extensive and comprehensive as seems to be claimed, of peace is pending, and in its present critical condition, which the sets of committees and comprehensive as seems to be claimed, of peace is pending, and in its present critical condition, which the sets and sending the taking possession of one of their States, and sending troops to engage in a war there, all at a time when the treaty is pending, and an armistice in existence suspending hostilities between the two contending parties. We have been told that your and armistice in existence suspending hostilities between the two contending parties. We have been told that Yucatan is quasis independent. I have before remarked that Mexico does not so regard her; and though Mexico has made and offer to exert her authority over this State for some time at, yet when m a situation that will enable her so to act will be not do it? We well know the tenacity of that people, and to say my instance? This doctine, asserted in 1823-24, when this usesage was proposed to the country. How can the Mexico does not so regard her; and though Mexico has made to effort to exert her authority over this State for some time at, yet when m a situation that will enable her so to act will be not do it? We well know the tenacity of that people, and to as will not all the proposed of the country. How can the second the desired that the sound that the least extremity. Can this be regarded any other light than as a new aggression, that would give upon the contractive of the country when the testing policy has been and any other light than as a new aggression, that would give upon the contract of the war to the disaffected the Mexico Government of the Committee on Postal Policy and the supposition of the country when the restate and made; and, in order to do that, we have got to decide the and to the wind the treaty is pending the taking possession of one of their States, and ending troops to exist the supposition that will entered to take the people of the country and or contract the d no effort to exert her authority over this State for some time past, yet when in a situation that will enable her so to act will she not do it? We well know the tenacity of that people,

unless driven into the last extremity. Can this be regarded in any other light than as a new aggression, that would give abundant reason for a continuance of the war to the disaffected to the Mexican Government, who are opposed to terminating the difficulties between the two countries?

Mr. President, in whatever light we regard the people of Yucatan, whether as an independent people, or as a dependancy upon Mexico, or as in a state of revolution, you cannot pass this bill consistently with what I believe we admit to be the settled principles of policy which have ever governed the conduct of this Government in its intercourse with foreign Powers. In accordance with these principles, it makes no difference whether Yucatan is regarded in any one of these three lights. We have no more right to interfere in the dothree lights. We have no more right to interfere in the do-mestic concerns of a State or province under the jurisdiction of some other country—no more right to interfere in domestic affairs, local in their character, than we have to interfere in the domestic affairs of a great independent State. Upon what principle, sir, can this military occupation of this province be justified in reference to the established principles which have governed the action of the United States? View it in whatever aspect you please, I ask upon what ground can it be jus-

remarkable document from the Governor of Yucatan, which, after depicting in dark colors the sufferings of the people, and the critical condition of Yucatan, proposes to surrender up the dominion and sovereignty of the country to the nation which will save it. "I have, therefore," he says, "determined to appeal to the extreme masure suggested by our great necessity—that of soliciting the direct intervention of powerful nations, offering the dominion and sovereignty of the country to the nation which will assee the charge of the country to the nation which will assee the charge of the sountry to the nation which will assee the charge of the sountry to the nation which will assee the charge of the acceptance of the soliciting the direct intervention of the powerful nations, offering the dominion and sovereignty of the country to the nation which will assee the charge of the country to the nation which will assee the charge of the property understood, gives any sanction, or recognises any policy of this Government, which involves a departure from these principles. What are these principles the principle of neutrality with regard to belligerous. This principle our Government has ever maintained, and a majority of our most distinguished statement have engereuts. This principle our Government has ever maintained, and a majority of our moet distinguished statesmen have endeavored to impress its importance upon the minds of our people, and upon every other nation in the world, in every possible mode and form. They have held it as one of the mos sacred of principles in regard to our intercourse with the other Powers of the world, and the surest guaranty of peace. Can we consistently with what is due to this great principle inter-fere in this civil war, whether we regard Yucatan as an inde-pendent State, or as a dependant province? She is no part of the United States; she is a country foreign to us. There is a war there, sir, and can we forcibly interfere in it, without invalidating the great principle of neutrality towards beltiger ents ? I see no answer to this query ; and I believe there ca

be no answer.

The second principle we have hitherto held equally sacrethe principle of non-intervention. It is the principle which this Government, above all others, ought to hold sacred, because it strikes at the very foundations of free government. It is the principle which belongs to a free people; which is, that they should take care of their own affairs. Is it consistent with this principle to take possession of a foreign State, and take part in a civil war in which it is engaged? Why, sir, a proposition of this kind needs but to be fully understood, order to show its fallacy. It does not admit of argument, ause stating it carries with it the argument. Are we to undertake to control by force the destinies of this people, and be cause they are in a terrible state of turnult and civil anarchy are we to settle their difficulties by taking possession of country, putting down one party and setting up another? What sort of government will you give them? Will you attempt to force your own principles of government upon them, or will you consult their wishes, and attempt to set up such a

doctrine which has been said to have been held by President Monroe, and which is very gravely spoken of as the settled and established policy of this country. cumstances of the nations in this hemisphere and in Europe at the time the declarations of Mr. Monroe were made, and to which they were applied, to form a correct opinion of them.

These were not abstract declarations of principles to govern the action of this Government, but declarations applied to the then existing state of the countries in Europe and America.

I have examined the two messages of 1823 and 1824 which contain his doctrines. contain his doctrines. Some years previous to that the Spanish colonies in this hemisphere had asserted and declared their independence; but Spain refused to acknowledge them, and still asserted her dominion over them. Mr. Monroe did not first, on the ground of policy, and second, on the ground of humanity, our interference traving been solicited by the Govinfly, on the foreign of process. These tong grounds due at state processes and then you may attempt to proceed. These tong grounds due at state processes and the processes of the country to considerations of policy. It was to the economic of the country tong them. If we interfer and take possession and we have been obtained as the articles are all and the processes of the country tong the processes of the proc our possession. But in what light does Mexico regard Yucatan' She certainly regards her as one of the States of that republic. How, then, can we take possession of that country without giving offence to Mexico? If we establish our authority there it will exclude the authority of Mexico; we must hold the country against Mexico. If we were not now in a war with Mexico, this would be regarded by her as an invalve of this of Europe. Spain was a member of this siliance, and at this time restricts to realizing to realizing to recessions in thority there it will exclude the authority of Mexico: we must hold the country against Mexico. If we were not now in a war with Mexico, this would be regarded by her as an invasion of her territory, and would certainly involve us in a war with Mexico. That our occupation was in pursuance of a request of Yucatan would be no justification to Mexico as long as she regards Yucatan as a part of her territory. It would be another Texas affer, with this important difference—that Yucatan has not yet asserted her independence, and has not been recognised as an independent State by any nation, not even by the United States. Her consent, therefore, would amount to nothing. It would be no answer to the complaints of Mexico to say that we had taken possession of this department of hers for purposes of humanity, to assist the people in defending themselves against the Indian population.

But how will this measure stand in view of our present relations with Mexico. We have ratified a treaty of peace with But how will this measure stand in view of our present relations with Mexico. We have ratified a treaty of peace with that republic, and sent out commissioners to procure its rational to the measure stand in view of our present relations with Mexico. We have ratified a treaty of peace with that republic, and sent out commissioners to procure its rational to the measure stand in view of our present relations with Mexico. We have ratified a treaty of peace with the republic, and sent out commissioners to procure its rational to the measure stand in view of our present relations with Mexico. We have ratified a treaty of peace with the republic as the northern continent. Gentlemen may well say with propriety that this sentiment was heartily responded to his countrymen, though there has been no occasion to put it into practice. After a while the combination was broken up, and without violating the atmixture? Can we make war on the Indian population of one of the States consistently with the armistice? The Indians are citizens, and a part of the Mexican Government; and an armistice has been no occasion to put it into practice. After a while the combination was broken up, and soon alter Spain acknowledged the independence of these States on this continent. This is one of the positions of Mr. Monroe, and has no connection whatever with the right of intervention, as now asserted, in the coopers of foreign Powtervention, as now a seried, in the concerns of foreign Powers, no connexion with the idea which seems to be assumed that Mr. Monroe claimed for the United States, as the principle to discover the second states and the second states are the second states. "Through the special favor of Divine Providence the oditate to or control the destinies of all others, or assumed the obligation to protect them. His was not the doctrine of interference, but of resistance to the interference of others. He was a man of too much good sense to have contended for the right of intervention in the manner which is asserted. He

Spanish American States in this hemisphere, that—

"The American continents, by the free and independent condition assumed and maintained, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects of inture colonization for any European

had no such idea.

what is contained in his first position, as it has direct reference to the ability of the countries on these continents to maintain their independence. He meant no more than that those countries ought not to be forcibly reduced to colonies by any European Power. Did he mean that no European Power we shall be forced to hold on. That would not at all favor could establish colonies in any unoccupied territory they might have in this country? Certainly he could not mean that it because he admits that the existing rights of European Powers could not be disturbed. It was, then, only an elaboration of the

know that treaty was very unacceptable to my honorable friend, the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations. In this case of dispute concerning Oregon, we claimed the whole—out title was clear and unquestionable—yet, in the face of this doctrine that no European power might extend their possessions on this continent, we not only gave the country up, but allowed the principle to be applied to a territory which we zealously asserted belonged to us.

Mr. HANNEGAN, Will my honorable friend allow me

from Connecticut vote for the treaty which surrendered that

the settlement of that important treaty, we gave away, or re-linquished, about one-third of the State of Maine, to which I think our title was clear and unquestionable. I hope, how-ever, we shall be able to sustain the principle so far as respects our own territory, and in perhaps defending territory immediately contiguous to us, where it is in imminent danger of falling into the hands of a foreign Power, and thus hazarding our own security. That, I believe, is the length and breadth this principle ought to be, or can be, carried. are some other departures from this principle that I might numerate. Our honorable friend will reme ember that there was a very fair occasion to bring up this doctrine—this convenient doctrine of Mr. Monroe in regard to what was called the Panama mission. My honorable friend from Mississippi has quoted very liberally from the speech of the Senator from Mas-achusetts on that very occasion.

Mr. FOOTE. The honorable Senator from Connecticut

rom the speech of the Senator from Massachusetts, was in-roduced for the edification of the Whig members of this body, Mr. NILES. Very well; good enough authority any way. It may be used on either side. But I should have been pleased had he quoted from another gentleman more distinguished in his position—I refer to the President of the United States. He did not, I think, sanction this doctrine. He, with others, adhered to the old doctrine. The Demothe policy of all parties. The proposed convention or

cracy on that occasion, and but shortly after Mr. Mouroe's time, stood upon the old doctrine of non-intervention. That was then, as it ever had been, the democratic doctrine, yet gress at Panama involved the same principle as the case under consideration. It was to regulate, by some system, the
concerns of the different nations in this hemisphere, and to secure all against European aggression and colonization. This measure, very unwise, as subsequent events proved, was re-commended and sustained by President Adams, with all his earning and ability; but as it involved a dangerous principle of foreign intervention, it was, after a warm and able detate, put down by both Houses of Congress, and there the thing Let us look further, and see how the doctrine stands of re-

sions, perhaps called so properly upon this continent, and below us, too! Great Britain, through some treaty in 1783, acquired the right of cutting logwood at acquired a large province—a province embracing the most fruitful and valuable part of Yucatan; and I will venture to say that the trade of Belize is ten to one of the trade of Yusay that the trade of Belize is ten to one of the trade of Yucatan, even before these disturbances occurred. This is not all by any means. What has she acquired still further south They have possessed themselves of a province called the Mosquito Coast, through the force of a deed or will, from some Indian chief, and thus extended her dominion there. This is not all. Travel over the earth, and then you may attempt to the aggressive inroads of that Power. I sow the province of the province of the province of the power of the province of the province called the Mosquito Coast, through the force of a deed or will, from some Indian chief, and thus extended her dominion there. This is a war of one portion of inhabitants against another describe the aggressive inroads of that Power. I saw the province the province of the prov describe the aggressive inroads of that Power. I saw this very day an account of their aggressions in Venezuelaian Guyana. They had some possessions in Guyana, which they shave extended until they have absorbed the whole of what was Spanish Guyana. The writer of the statement I saw, and who accems to be well information. Until they have absorbed the whole of what was shown to be well information. If then we have thus fair steadily pursued this policy with a success and prospersion in this case?

Mr. NILES. The Senator assumes that that is the course which we should be bound to pursue. But I will not dwell upon that point, as I have no apprehensions either one way or the other. I know her policy has been an aggressive and which, in my judgment, involves a departure from established who access to be well information. If then we have thus fair steadily pursued this policy with a success and prospersion which we should be bound to pursue. But I will not dwell upon that point, as I have no apprehensions either one way or the other. I know her policy has been an aggressive and prospersion which we should be bound to pursue. But I will not dwell upon that point, as I have no apprehensions either one way or the other. I know her policy has been an aggressive and prospersion which we should be bound to pursue. But I will not dwell upon that point, as I have no apprehensions either one way or the other. I know her policy has been an aggressive and prospersion which we should be bound to pursue. But I will not dwell upon that point, as I have no apprehensions either one way or the other. I know her policy has been an aggressive and prospersion which we should be bound to pursue. But I will not dwell upon that point, as I have no apprehensions either one way or the other. I know her policy has been an aggressive and prospersion which which we should be bound to pursue. But I will not dwell upon that point, as I have no apprehensions either one way or the other. I know her policy has been an aggressive and prospersion which Monroe in 1823-'24. In a mere supposititious case we are told that our interest requires, not to interfere diplomatically, not to protest against a foreign Power taking possession of Yucatan, but upon the mere assumption that she may be thus taken possession of, we are called upon to seize the country and occupy it ourselves. Sir, that is one part of the doctrine. Mr. President, I thought it proper to examine these doc

trines to which such importance is attached of late, and which are assumed to be the established policy of the country, although they never seem to have been recognised by any action of the Government. But if we were to admit this to be a settled policy, it is sufficient to say that there is in this case no facts to justify our interference. There is not the first facno facts to justify our interference. before the Senate. There are no facts to prove any design on the part of the British or of Spain to take forcible possession of the State of Yucatan. Not one. Now, sir, as far as any right of interference by one independent Power with anone is concerned, all writers on the laws of nations agree in say ing that the case must be an extreme one, the danger muminiment, to justify such an act, one which will admit of other remedy. We are called upon to interfere in the other remedy. We are called upon to interfere in the officers of Yucatan upon a mere supposition or suspicion that England may possibly interfere if we do not. It may be possibly interfere if we do not. It may be possibly things. Can a mere supposition of many other things. Can a mere supposition or suspicion of this nature be any justification for our interference. It may be said further, that England has already been to interfere. True; but she has been to precisely in the same way that we have been treated same appeal and offer have been made to both nations. posing England was to interfere under this solicitation of rnment at Yoca'an, have we any right to complain of such a course on her part. Even if there were any ference on the part of England, it would not be prima had no such idea.

What further does Mr. Monroe say? In connexion with this view, he says, in direct reference to the condition of the has sent two ships of war to the coast of Yocatan. I recently read an account that two ships of war from Cuba had arrived on the coast of Yucaian, and were doing what they could to sid the sufferers, taking them on board and fornishower."

What did he mean by this? I think nothing more than

I have a few words, Mr. President, to submit in regard to the rountries here are capable of maintaining their own independence, and could not be disturbed or subjugated by any European Power. What is there in all this that supports the idea that it was the purpose of Mr. Monroe to watch ever all the countries of this hemisphere, and to repel interference in any one of them without regard to the idea whether it was an encroachment upon our rights, or such an invasion of the rights of other independent nations as might endanger our own safety; but raggely as being the great Power on this continent, we had the right and were under obligation to regulate the affairs of all other countries, at least as far as regards European interference? Has Mr. Monroe ever laid down any such principles of power on our part?

Now, I might contend that, even if Mr. Monroe's ideas were so extensive and comprehensive as seems to be claimed, they were in direct conflict with the settled policy of national intervention with respect to the rights of all nations which has We are here informed that the Indians are citizens; that | first doctrine, that the countries here are capable of maintain- | I have a few words, Mr. President, to submit in regard to | their own defence ? Can we withdraw our forces and leave have never injured us?

This is no trivial concern. This not a question as to the

right of intervention, but whether we know enough about the merits of the controversy to justify our adopting and carrying out the extraordinary measures proposed. We are to take sides on this question. We are to become a party to this war, and are to assume that it is on the one hand a war of extermination carried on by barbarians, and on the other, a war of self-defence, a resistance to the murderous incursions of sav-ages. It may be so. But I ask whether there is any thing our title was clear and unquestionable, why did my friend from Connecticut vote for the treaty which surrendered that territory to Great Britain?

Mr. NILES. I alluded to the opinions of my honorable friend from Indiana and others, that our title was clear and unquestionable. I certainly never so considered it; if I had, I should not have voted for the treaty.

There was another insance, that of the northeastern boundary, where there was not only a yielding to an extension of European dominion here, but in a case where we at least claimed, and, in my judgment, possessed a good title. In the settlement of that important treaty, we gave away, or relative to the settlement of that important treaty, we gave away, or relative to the settlement of that important treaty, we gave away, or relative to the settlement of that important treaty, we gave away, or relative to the settlement of that important treaty, we gave away, or relative to the settlement of that important treaty, we gave away, or relative to the settlement of that important treaty, we gave away, or relative to the settlement of that important treaty, we gave away, or relative to the settlement of that important treaty, we gave away, or relative to the settlement of that important treaty, we gave away, or relative to the settlement of that important treaty, we gave away, or relative to the settlement of that important treaty, we gave away, or relative to the settlement of that important treaty we gave away, or relative to the settlement of that important treaty we gave away, or relative to the settlement of that important treaty, we gave away, or relative to the settlement of that important treaty which is our truly to our own citizens over so tents to be suited as equals into society. They have been admitted as equals what? Why, in their uter extermination This is, as is said, truly a war of extermination. For one, sir, I would he sitate long before I would give a vote to take the responsibility of exterminating this race, to say nothing about exposing and hazarding the lives of my own countrymen. I should like, for one, to know more upon this subject. I find that the correspondence laid before us sheds no light on the question how this controversy began. The statement, also, of Mt. Sierra, affirming that there were no factions existing in the State, does not seem to be entirely true. He doubtless supthe exhibition of factions to-day, and yet to-morrow they may come forth in all their evils. We know that during the short period of our war with México the condition of Yucatan has assumed three or four different phases. But there are fac-Mr. FOOTE. The honorable Senator from Connecticut tions. There are two parties, and dissensions among the misunderstood me on this point. I expressly said, as he will whites as well as this controversy with the natives. No longer than the 5th of last month I find that the then Governor, believing it might tend to harmonize and unite the peo-ple, and thus strengthen their hands in the struggle in which they were engaged, resigned his office, doubtless in favor of the rival leader of the other hostile party. Mendez, the then Governor, resigned in favor of Barbachina. This measure seems to have been designed to unite the two parties, and to enable them more effectually to defend themselves against the assaults of their savage foe, and to strengthen their hands against their common enemy, the Indians. But such was the bitterness of feeling between the two parties that it had a directly contrary effect, for of the eight thousand men who com posed their army at the time, about one-half, comprising the report received to day, containing the correspondence with the Navy Department, throws some light on the origin and causes of this war; but I have not had an opportunity to examine it. The correspondence in the two messages offered very little light; in fact, Mr. Sierra seems to avoid going into the origin of these controversies. Traced to its source, I think it will be found that this war at present existing in that country is one of the deplorable evils resulting from their divisions. sisting e-lonization in this whole hemisphere. What has this nation done in opposing British encroachments and aggreecomplete subjugation, and whose natural characteristic, according to Mr. Sierra, is stupidity, should, of their own accord. after having endured oppression so long, from some strange Belize—the right of establishing a factory there for trade, but no right of territorial jurisdiction; yet, through the exercise of that right, she has extended her possessions until she has culty, of which we at present know nothing.

Sir, when foreign intervention takes place it is supposed to

Such are the people we are called upon to assist in exter inating. They are without artificial wants, subsisting in a minating. They are without artificial wants, subsisting in a state of nature, living on little or nothing, and sallying forth with astonishing rapidity, falling upon hamlets and villages, devastating them with fire, and then retreating far from pursoit to their forests and fastnesses. The Governor expresses his opinion of them still more strongly. He says:

"The white race—the civilized class of this State—is now

"The white race—the civilized class of this State—is now attacked in an atrocious and barbarous manner by the aboriginal caste which, rising simultane justy in insurrection, by an instinct of ferocity is making a savage and exterminating war on us. Every thing is ravaged and destroyed, the towns are delivered to flumes, and all, without consideration of acc or age, who fall into the bloody lands of these barbarians, are murdered without pity, and with the most cruel tortures. Their forests, their fastnesses, their customs, and other particular circumstances, render the Indians terrible enemies; and when to this is added their numbers, excessively superior to those of the other castes, it will be at once seen how difficult is to restrain them, and how easily they may clude the means employed to attack and pursue them; and the difficulty becomes the greater in consequence of the want of funds to support the expenses, and to obtain the necessaries for carrying on the war."

Here the Governor says that these Indians have become te rible enemies. Mr. Sierra states that they are vastly superior to his own people. In all the accounts which we have had of this cruel war, with all its terrible devastations, I have never seen any account of the first battle that has been fought or the first stand that has been made by the white population of I know not, I cannot say: as yet they appear to have had no skirmish, nor made any resistance, however slight, to the de-solating progress this formidable people are continuing. Now, solating progress this formidable people are continuing. Now, sit, if we engage in this war we assume upon our hands no small undertaking. I know our soldiers are brave, and probably one thousand of our troops would oppose a more formidable resistance to the incursions of these Indians than the whole military force of Yucatan; but, sir, from the extracts which I have just read, it will be readily perceived that these people will be the most difficult enemy to externinate that could be encountered in any war. They are not to be met on the field of battle. They retire when pursued to their almost innecessible retireats and fast-nesses. What can be accomplished even if we pass the bill and send an armed force into that country? Why, suppose we drive back this people, for it will not be so cay to externing and send an armed force into that country? Why, suppose we drive back this people, for it will not be so cay to externing them, can we, after thus driving back the Indians, leave the whites to

present case, was carried on by the Mexicans. Well, sir, we refused Texas aid, and yet her inhabitants were bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. I might refer, sir, to other cases, more remote, to be sure, but perhaps more similar in their nature to the one at present under consideration. I would not be understood as saying that it is not proper to extend any assistance to this people in their extremity, and perhaps we ought to go so far as to supply them with arms and munitions of war. But I speak of our making ourselves a party to this war. During the glorious administration of Mr. Jefferson, distinguished for a liberal and humane spirit, there were similar scenes which occurred on our borders. Who were similar scenes which occurred on our borders. Who has forgotten the fate of San Domingo? We did not interfere then, sir. Was not that a case that appealed to our sympathy and humanity? Was it not a case within our borders as much so as in the present one of Yucatan? The result,

as much so as in the present one of Yucatan? The result, as we well know, was the extermination of the white race. Sir, let us for a moment contrast this bill with a resolution recently passed by this body, and see if there be not some little doubt existing as to the purity and consistency of our present design. I need not remind the Senate of the very interesting subject lately before us, growing out of the great movement in the Old World, considered in this body, not in the form of legislation, to be sure, still certainly in a form assuming to express the sentiments of this great people, thus giving it a higher character than its ordinary expression might be entitled to. We have, after much deliberation and contemplation upon the matter, adopted a resolution expressing our concurrence with, and congratulations at, the rising of the our concurrence with, and congratulations at, the rising of the lower classes of people in one of the great nations of Europe, and upon the success of their efforts in overthrowing the higher and aristocratic classes of their society. That I take to be the character of the revolution in a great degree. And it has been called the revolution of the blouses. The men in frocks, the sons of toil with their bronzed faces and hard hands accomplished the revolution, and we have expressed our appro-bation at the result of their efforts. And now, sir, we are about to express our opinion of a revolutionary movement, of a civil war in another part of the world. Having congratua civil war in another part of the world. Having congratulated the blooses in one country upon overthrowing the power and ascendency with all their privileges and influences enjoyed by the higher classes, we are now about to pass a law making ourselves a party with the higher classes in another country to overthrow and even exterminate the lower classes or more degraded portion of the population. These people have been vastly more oppressed and degtaded than the lowest ranks of the French inhabitants. All will admit, I think, that these two acts would not stand very well together.

We were told, Mr. President, by the honorable chairman who has brought forward this bill, that if we do not assume the occumation and protection of this country. England will

the occupation and protection of this country, England will take possession of it, and then we shall be called upon, in accordance with the great doctrine of Mr. Monroe, as that Senator understands it, to displace or expel her, and thus become involved in a war with that mighty Power. If the Senator understands is a war with that mighty Power. stor's idea is right upon this subject, it is giving to this bill a higher character than it has been supposed to possess. If this is so, we are not only to assume the responsibility of conse-quences, already referred to, resulting from becoming a party to this war, but we also hazard a war with the only nation capable of doing us any essential or permanent injury. But may there not be equal darger of a war with Eugland if we interfere with Yucatan in the first instance? But, sir, if we place the offer of our aid merely on the ground of humanity for a suffering people, and if this is to be regarded only as a work of charity on the part of any nation that performs it, sorely if we step in and take the work into our own hands, England cannot but thank us for so doing! If England intorferes with a design to extend her dominion over that country, it will be immaterial to her, whether she be there first or not; she will not relinquish her object, because we get the

tell the consequences if we encountered English troops there.

Mr. NILES. I believe I understand the Senator's posi-

on clearly.

Mr. HANNEGAN. I said, for my own part, I would be

interfere with Yucalan for her own aggrandizement is as im-probable and as unfounded as any thing that can be well con-ceived of. The power and ambitious schemes of England are constantly brought in view.

It seems to be with some gentlemen here, sir, a very fruit

It seems to be with some gentlemen here, sir, a very fruitful topic, and brought to bear upon various occasions, as to what ought to be our policy in extending our dominion or territory; also as a subject of serious consideration, the encroaching power of Great Britain, and the danger of that power. We are constantly told of her hemming us round by the extent of her possessions; of her superior commercial advantages on the lakes, the guif, every where; and it is assumed that there is something very slarming and hazardous to our peace or trade in all this. Why, sir, I view the matter in a very different light. I would assert our rights in every respectagainst Great Britain in all cases; but, independent of existing rights, viewed merely with reference to any danger, present or remote, from the increase or extent of the possespresent or remote, from the increase or extent of the posses-sions of Great Britain on this continent, I regard all such apsions of Great Britain on this comment, I regard all such ap-prehensions as utterly vain and futile, and unworthy of a great people who ought to have confidence in their own position and strength. Who knows but that the settlements and progrees of Great Britain upon this hemisphere are, in the urse of events and the dispensations of Providence, to prove elements of strength and prosperity to this country. Who knows but that her aggressive policy, her strengths exertions knows but that her aggressive policy, her strengens executions to build up her power here, are all to enure to our benefit commercially, and perhaps territorially. Do gentlemen suppose that the possessions of the British empire can remain and be held together and controlled by her with her present politithe first stand that has been made by the waite population that distracted country. It appears that they have a small be held together and controlled by her with her present point-force in the field, but whether it is that they are afraid to fight as fallacious as those made by the late King of France. He as fallacious as those made by the late King of France. He was strengthening and building up power which he thought would be available against any dangers that might assail him from within or without. He had control over military establishments of the control over military establishments.

comparison with the British possessions, are but a mere baga-telle. Why, sir, the trade of the British colonies in our own products amounts to some nine or ten millions of dollars annually, whilst that of all the Spanish American colonies, excepting Cubs, do not equal half that sum. And what have cepting Cubs, do not equal half that sum. And what have we to fear from British power here? Are gentlemen afraid that we shall be attacked in our own territory, or that our comthat we shall be attacked in our own territory, or that our commerce may be cut up? Sir, we have nothing to fear at home from any Power or all the Powers of the earth. This is the strongest country in the world, both in respect to internal disorder or external violence; all Europe combined ought not to give us the least uneasiness except in regard to the sacrifices which might follow. We know our strength. We see that the whole people here are, or may be, in the shortest period, organized into a military force equal to any in the world. We see that the people of Europe are of two different elements, and cannot be relied upon to act together. Sir, to trouble ourselves about the growth of British power is one of the idiest things in the world. I do not say that there might not be cases of Great Britain's attempting to possess herself of councases of Great Britain's attempting to possess herself of coun-tries which might endanger our commerce. Cuba, perhaps, would be one which would demand our resistance. But I speak of the general idea of the growth of British power on

speak of the general idea of the growth of British power on this continent. We have no more reason to fear from it than we have from Mexico.

Mr. President, the policy on which this bill rests, fear of a supposed extension of the dominion of a foreign Power on the one hand, and a design of extending our own dominion on the other, if such an idea can be allowed, I regard as unsound other, if such an idea can be allowed, I regard as unsound and dangerous. This spirit of jealousy in regard to the strength of any Power on this continent is, in my judgment, not only a very unwise, but a very dangerous policy. What is to be the result if we resist every attempt—which seems to be the idea of the honorable chairman and others—on the part of any foreign Government to establish or extend their dominion here? Will we not be kept in a constant state of war or preparation for war? Will not the adoption of such a relief preparation for war? Will not the adoption of such a policy change our character, perhaps imperceptibly, to that of a military people, and lead to a steady enlargement of our military and naval establishments? Will it not entail upon us a national debt, and change in some degree the spirit of the people, and in process of time, the spirit if not the form of our institutions? Whilst seeking to avoid imaginary evils we may fall upon real evils. These evils we not not to the form of our institutions? fall upon real evils. These evils we may run into under republican form of government as well as under a monarchica The evils resulting from overgrown military establishment are a public debt, and the withdrawal of so large a portion of blican form of government as well as under a monarchical are a public debt, and the windrawat of so large maintained the industrial power of the country, to be maintained at the expense of the remaining portion. Look at the expense of the remaining portion. Look at France, with a military establishment of five hundred thousands. sand men. If she expects to get relief from the bur arising from this military establishment and a national debt, its legitimate offspring, by a mere change in the form of government, she will find herself entirely mistaken. My honorable friend, the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, in alluding to the remarks of the gentleman from South Caro-lina, who adverted to the impolicy of hazarding an additional war at the time when we were involved in a heavy public debt, said that when any great measure for extending our do-minion—I suppose he meant our resisting foreign colonization in this country, or the carrying out the great principle of lus of dominion-whenever there was any occasion for adopting any such great measure, the Senator from South Carolina was constantly bringing forward the "phantom of a national debt." Sir, the people of England and France, and all the States of Europe, seem at last to have found that a national debt was no phamtom, but rather a sad reality. And shall we enter upon a policy which has brought such calamities upon Eu-rope. And I hope the Senator will pardon me for saying that I think we are progressing in this matter very respectably; and that a national debt of one hundred millions is not to be called a phantom. I think if not sensible now of the reality of a na-tional debt, with this convenient mode of getting along by making loans, that when we get peace, and shall find it hard-ly admissible to go on by a system of loans, and we come to be thrown back upon our own real resources, the actual revenues, that then the honorable gentleman will be convinced that a national debt is something more than a phantom. And with my views of our present revenue, and looking to the present disturbed condition of Europe, and the effect it must have apen our trade, I am inclined to fearthat the Senator may find that the public debt is a reality, and our

the Senutor may find that the public debt is a reality, and our revenue a phantom. I hope it may not be so, Mr. President.

I have got through what I have to say in opposition to this bill. In regard to the request contained in the message, and the appeal made to us, I would go for assisting this suffering people as far as may be consistent with the established principles of this Government—with maintaining our neutrality in this war as in all other wars, and of abstaining from improper interference with the domestic concerns of this, as of all other nations. I am of the opinion that something might be done without violating these principles. Whatever measure may be proposed in accordance with those principles for their relief, I assure the honorable chairman I will go as far if not farther than himself in carrying it out. Possibly we might go so far as to supply that people with arms and ammunition; I am as to supply that people with arms and ammunition; I am not prepared to say but that I would go to that length, but that would be the extent to which I would go. We have hitherto on the step in and tage the work into our own hands, and cannot but thank us for so doing! If England involveres with a design to extend her dominion over that countries with a design to extend her dominion over that countries with a design to extend her object, because we get the art of her.

Mr. HANNEGAN. I remarked that we could not fore-find the consequences if we encountered English travers there. far walked with safety, and which has given to this country a degree of prosperity, an exemption from the evils of war, and a freedom from disturbances and entanglements which

## INTERESTING TO WOOL-GROWERS.

PROM THE VERMONT PATRIOT.

Lowell, (Mass ) Fan. 10, 1848. Mr DEAR SIR : Your very kind and interesting favor of the 27th ult. duly came to hand, and should, if practicable, have received an earlier reply. The business of wool growing in this country is destined to be of immense importance: and I am firm in the belief that within twenty-five years we shall produce a greater quantity of wool than any other

You ask, "Is the present home demand supplied " There is not enough annually raised in the country by 10,000,000 pounds to meet the demand of the manufactories

You ask, "What countries can we export wool to " &c This country will not export wool regularly for fifteen years, for the reason that the consumption will increase as rapidly as the production. I can point out articles made of wool now imported, which will require thirty millions of pounds of a

medium and fine quality to supply the consumption. The business of manufacturing wool in this country is on better basis than ever before, masmuch as the character, skill, and capital engaged in it are such that foreign competition is defied. A very few years, and all articles of wool used here

will be of home manufacture. Now I beg of you to keep the wool-growers steady to the nark. Let them aim to excel in the blood and condition of their flocks, and the day is not far distant when they will be amply remunerated. I shall always have great pleasure in

searing from you, and remain yours, most truly. SAM. LAWRENCE. HENRY S. RANDALL, Beg., Cortland, New York.

Uses or the Surflower.—This subject being presented at a late meeting of the Farmers' Club, of New York, elicited statements of which the following is the substance:

The oit of the plant, if properly cultivated and prepared, will answer for, if it do not take the place of, all others put together. A great desideratum is its use for lamps; it burns as iong, gives as clear or even a more brilliant light than any other, exhales no disagreeable or unhealthy odor, no apparent smoke evaporating from the wicks, and consequently it leaves none of those dark and unsightly sooty features attendant upon even our finest oils now in use.

none of those dark and unsightly sooty features attendant upon even our finest oils now in use.

The yield of the oil is large. In 1840 Mr. Wm. Wood obtained twenty-seven gallons of good oil from nineteen bushels of sunflower, used without hulling, with an hydraulic press. He also made two and a half gallons of oil from two and a half bushels of common pumpkin seeds. All this was manufactured in the usual way of managing flaxseed, except that the crushed seed was not subjected to as much heat in the revolv-ing cylinder before it was pressed. It is said that from thirt to forty pounds of oil can be extracted from one hundred pounds

As food for cattle the sunflower is excellent, more especial ly when ground with a mixture of grain. Fowls are extrava-gantly fond of the seed, and the oil has been used with much ccess for foundered horses, applied both externally and

The trial at Rochester of Dr. John A. Salisbury for counterfeiting has resulted in a verdict of guilty against him. Previous to being charged with the crime he bore an unblemished character, and was much respected by the citizens among whom he lived.

In the United States District Court on Saturday, John